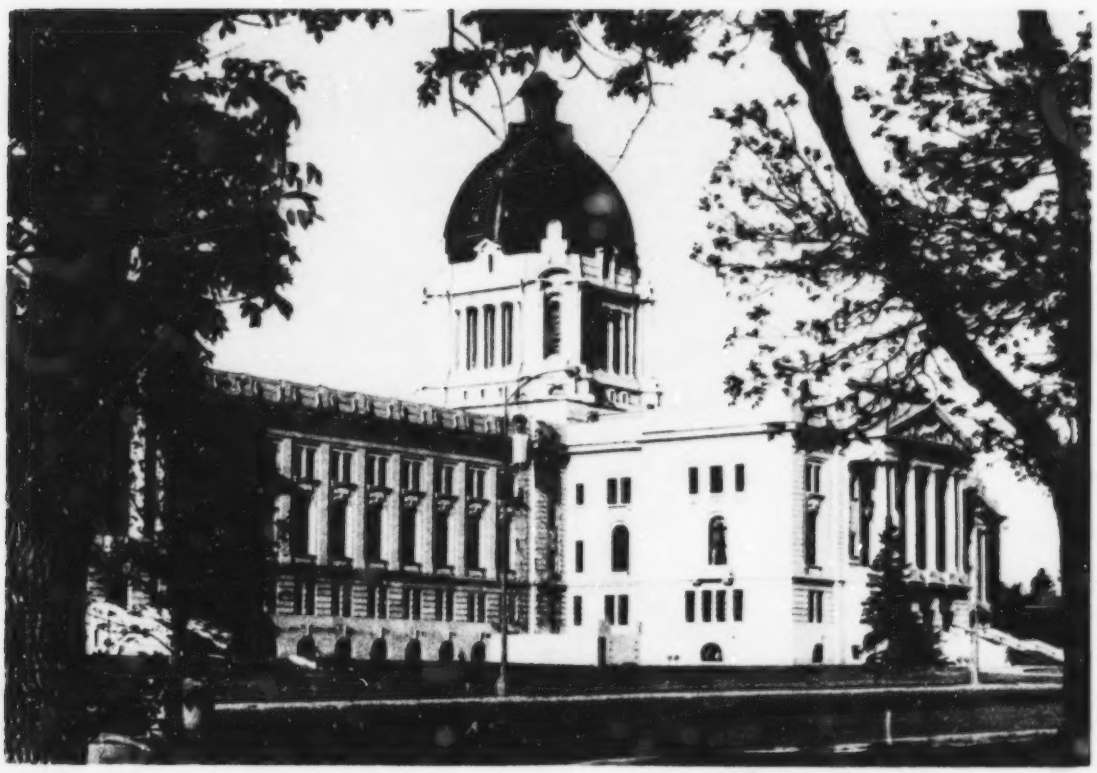
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

(Saskatchewan Branch)



15th Annual Report 1983

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EXECUTIVE

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

Hon. H.J. Swan, MLA
President

L.W. Birkbeck, MLA

Hon. A.E. Blakeney, MLA

Hon. C. Maxwell, MLA

S.H. Petersen, MLA

M.C. Rybchuk, MLA

Hon. P.A. Smith, MLA

G. Barnhart
Secretary-Treasurer

J. Zazelenchuk, MLA

INTRODUCTION

As you will see from our report for 1983, it has been another active year for the Saskatchewan Branch. We have been able to send a delegation to each conference and we have received several out of country delegations and hosted the Regional Seminar.

Saskatchewan was paid a great honour this year when our Branch was chosen as the host of the 1985 General Conference. This annual commonwealth conference has never been hosted by a provincial jurisdiction before so this will be another first for Saskatchewan. The plans are progressing well for the conference. Seven Saskatchewan cities will help host our guests and they too are already making preparations to make our nearly 450 guests welcome to our province. We hope to involve all Saskatchewan Members through the tours, dinners, and conference sessions. The conference will be a provincial event and hopefully a memorable one for our visitors.

During 1983, the Saskatchewan Table in cooperation with the CPA continued its attachment program. Mr. Bertram Tittawella, Assistant Clerk of the Sri Lankan parliament studied and worked at the Saskatchewan Table in the spring of 1983 and David Gussow, a Clerk from the Canadian House of Commons worked with us in the fall of 1983. The attachment program was initiated by the Saskatchewan Table to encourage the study of parliament and to offer a learning experience each year to one or two clerks from other Tables throughout the Commonwealth.

I want to thank all of the Members of the Saskatchewan Branch who devoted so much of their time in representing Saskatchewan at conferences, hosting house parties and generally making our CPA visitors welcome. Without your enthusiastic participation, the Saskatchewan Branch could not maintain its reputation as one of the most active CPA Branches in Canada.

Gordon Barnhart
Secretary
Saskatchewan Branch

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1983 has indeed been a busy year for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Saskatchewan Branch. Many of our Members have had the opportunity to visit other provinces and other countries. I believe that this is beneficial to all of us in that we learn what others are doing and can apply much of what we learn to the Saskatchewan scene.

Thirty-second Parliamentary Seminar London, England — March 8 - 26, 1983
Lloyd Muller

Interprovincial Visit from Yukon and N.W.T. — May 4 - 8, 1983
William Brewster — Yukon
Piers McDonald — Yukon
Peter Fraser — N.W.T.
Missy Follwell — Yukon

Visit of Speaker Turner and Mrs. Turner, Ontario

Regional Council Meeting, Ottawa — June 3 - 5, 1983
Hon. Speaker Swan
Gordon Barnhart

Visit to the House of Commons, London, England — June 28 - 30, 1983
Hon. Speaker Swan
Gordon Barnhart

Tynwald Ceremony, Isle of Man — July 2 - 6, 1983
Hon. Speaker Swan
Gordon Barnhart

Interprovincial Visit to Ontario — June 19 - 22, 1983
Hon. Speaker Swan
J.P. Meagher
D. Lingenfelter
David Mitchell

Twenty-third Regional Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba — August 7 - 11, 1983
W. Johnson
W.M. Sveinson
A.L. Smith
K.E. Parker
G.W. Caswell
David Mitchell

Ninth Canadian Regional Seminar, Regina, Saskatchewan — October 3 - 7, 1983

Hon. Speaker Swan
H. Martens
A. Tusa
Hon. Allan Blakeney

British Delegation, October 2 - 9, 1983

Frederick Silvester
William Hamilton
Sir Charles Gordon
Donald Limon

Twenty-ninth General Conference, Kenya, Nairobi — October 21 - November 7, 1983

Hon. Speaker Swan
Gordon Barnhart

Australian Visit to Regina — November 23 - 24, 1983

Hon. H.A. Jenkins
Ian Harris
Miss Gleeson

Annual Meeting and Dinner, December 7, 1983

I would like now to report briefly on the different functions that I have attended during the year as President of the Saskatchewan Branch.

From June 3 to 5th, 1983, Gordon Barnhart and I attended the Regional Council Meeting in Ottawa. This meeting was attended by the Speakers from all Branches in Canada, accompanied usually by their Clerk. I felt that the meeting of Speakers was beneficial. For me it was the first opportunity to attend and I enjoyed meeting the Speakers from the other provinces, but it was an opportunity to share some of the changes that are taking place in rules that apply to the different Houses. Also, to find some of the problems that others are experiencing and the ways that they are trying to deal with them. As a new Speaker, this was beneficial to me and I hope it will be beneficial to our province as well.

In June I had the opportunity to visit Queen's Park in Ontario along with Paul Meagher, Dwain Lingenfelter and David Mitchell. We spent from June 19 to 22nd looking at the operation of the Ontario House, the services provided to its members, the operation of the Board of Internal Economy, and had an opportunity to share with a number of the Ontario Members some of the concerns that we had and to gain from the experiences that they have had.

From there I went on to the House of Commons in London, England, where Gordon Barnhart and I spent three days from the 27th to the 29th of June discussing with the Speaker and with the Procedural Clerks of the Parliament a number of areas that I had had some concern about and I believe gained a fair insight into the British Parliamentary system. Though their system is different than ours, it is still the root that we stem from and we often draw upon the experiences of the British House to benefit our own system. We spent a fair bit of time discussing their committee structures, and I think a number of areas we were able to talk to them about will be of use here in our committees.

While in London, we were given the opportunity to go across to the Isle of Man to attend the Tynwald Ceremony. This is a very special ceremony that is held once a year and it's the actual time the Isle of Man gives royal assent to all of the legislation that it has passed in the previous year. This is an historic day for the citizens of the Isle of Man. The Tynwald Ceremony is held in an outdoor setting and attended by many of the people from the Isle of Man. The ceremony dates in excess of a thousand years of parliamentary government. This year, I believe, was 1003 years. For me, at least, it was an opportunity to see history in the making and to witness a country much, much older than ours.

Also, while in England, we were able to visit Saskatchewan House and to attend two or three functions that Saskatchewan House sponsored. On our final day in England, we were privileged to accompany Bob Larter and his wife to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party hosted by the Queen. This was something that added considerably to our trip. The pomp and ceremony of the Buckingham Palace function is nice to witness once. The garden was extremely beautiful with about three thousand people in attendance including the Queen and Prince Philip, the Queen Mother, Princess Diana and Prince Charles and the Duke and Duchess of Kent. The day that we were at Buckingham Palace, I think was one of the warmest days I've experienced in a long time with temperatures in the high 90's and the humidity at almost a hundred. But despite some uncomfortable conditions in the weather, the afternoon was most enjoyable and one that we will long remember.

From October 3 to 7th, Saskatchewan was host to the 9th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Regional Seminar held in Regina. This conference was attended by elected members from all provinces and territories in Canada. I think that everyone who attended found the program very worthwhile. It was a learning experience where we could share ideas back and forth, and from the reports that we have received back from the provinces, all felt that the seminar was very educational. I had a good time and I hope that the others did as well.

At this seminar we also were host to a delegation from Britain where we had two members and their wives, Sir Charles Gordon and his wife, and one Clerk, Donald Limon. These members spent the complete seminar with us and after the seminar, we took them to see some of Saskatchewan — touching the Muirhead farm, Gardiner Dam and Saskatoon. SMDC hosted us for one day to a flight to Key Lake to see the new mine that was just opening to begin its first production of yellow cake. When we returned, we were hosted at a dinner by the SMDC. The people from Britain were impressed by the size and beauty of our province and by the diverse types of terrain that they experienced as we went from one place to another. Coming into Regina, they thought that all of Saskatchewan was flat, open plains, but by the time they finished the tour that we took them on, they left, I'm sure, with an entirely different look at Saskatchewan. They were indeed interested in the uranium project and will be taking back their thoughts and impressions to discuss with their government concerning the uranium development in Saskatchewan.

As well, from the 21st of October to the 7th of November, I attended the 29th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, General Conference in Kenya. This conference was held in Nairobi, a very beautiful and large city, with an almost perfect type of temperature year round. The temperature varies between 75 and 85 degrees throughout the year. Situated almost on the equator, the country experiences about 12 hours day and 12 hours night year round. While in Kenya, the government took all the delegates out on a safari for three days. The group that we were able to accompany went to the game park at Masi Mera. It was a very long and tiring bus trip from Nairobi to the game park, and on the way we were able to visit a new power development that the Kenyan Government has put into place. This is a geothermal power station where they draw their energy from underground wells that produce live steam at 700 pounds pressure. This particular energy development is now producing 32 megawatts of electricity with 27 wells in place and they are continuing to dig wells and the hope for the future is that they will increase their power production to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 70 megawatts. This supplies much needed power since Kenya has no oil or gas reserves but must import all of its energy. Once the plant is built, there is very little cost to the operation of it because the wells seem to have an abundance of live steam.

Once we arrived at the game park after some 13 hours of bus travel, we had a very enjoyable time touring in the park. In the succeeding two days, we had the opportunity to see untold numbers of animals of many, many types. I found it hard to believe that the animals were still in such abundance. We saw herds of thousands of animals of many kinds. The animals range from lion, cheetah, jaguar to elephant, giraffe, many water buffalo, hartebeest and wildebeest, deer of all species, the very large rhinoceros, hippopotamus. Those are just a few, but the numbers of animals were just unbelievable. At times, you could look across the open plains and as far as the eye could see, the country was just covered with animals. At the time that we were in Masi Mera, the animals were migrating. That added to the density of the population. The

game officers in that particular park said that they had in excess of 3 million animals under their control. At times the animals looked so friendly and quiet that you sort of lost the perspective that they were wild animals. We were advised not to step out of the small buses that were used because the animals would attack immediately, but were used to the buses and for that reason, appeared to be tame.

The conference that we attended in Nairobi covered a number of very important topics, and I'll just list the titles of the topics because it would be difficult to give a complete report on the decisions on all of them. We started out with a plenary session on energy crises and economic cooperation within the Commonwealth. The second plenary was the poverty of the Third World, the challenge of global food production and distribution. Then we went into panel discussions that were sitting two at a time. We had Housing and Human Settlements - What Role for the Elected Representative, and Development Assistance with particular reference to the transfer of technology. The second afternoon we dealt with the civil servant and his relationship with parliamentarians and the problem of unemployment in Commonwealth countries with particular reference to school leavers. I believe that all people who attended these felt that they were very worthwhile, and I think a learning experience for each one in attendance.

The third plenary session dealt with International Organizations - their effectiveness in resolving international disputes and preserving peace. The fourth plenary was the future of parliamentary democracy in the Commonwealth. The fifth plenary dealt with international peace and security with special reference to Southern Africa, Namibia and South Africa. The Grenada crises had occurred at the time that this conference was in session and for that reason the topic centered on the American invasion of Grenada. It was a very hotly debated subject, but the people from the Caribbean region strongly supported the move taken by the United States and all of them praised the United States for what they were doing. Some of the African nations were not in agreement with what the United States had done, but I thought it was very interesting to listen to the discussion, and to hear the strong support that the Caribbean region gave to the United States' position.

The sixth and final plenary dealt with the dissemination of information about parliament. I think this session challenged all of us. At that particular session, I reported the Saskatchewan use of television and the type of television system that we have. This was of interest to a number of people in attendance.

The Annual General Meeting of CPA took 1 1/2 days in the middle of the week. The meeting covered the financing of the CPA. The place for future meetings, a discussion of the Working Party Report which dealt with the Bylaws and Directions that CPA will

take in the future. During the General Meeting I extended an invitation to the CPA to come to Saskatchewan for their 1985 conference. After considerable discussion, this invitation was accepted.

I was elected as Vice President for this year and will move into the President's chair in 1985 when the conference will be here in our province.

One other major change that occurred was that each region will now be allowed three regional representatives on the executive instead of two that were allowed in the past.

To keep pace with the costs of running CPA, an increase of 10% was approved for 1985.

Just as a follow-up to that conference, we were visited in November by the Speaker from the House in Canberra, Australia, because he had heard from those who attended the conference that Saskatchewan had an automatic television system in place and the reports that he heard indicated that we had the best in the world. So he came to see and I think that when he left our Legislature, he agreed that ours was far superior to anything he had seen, and he had visited Bonn, Germany; London, England; Washington; Ottawa and then Saskatchewan. He took back to Australia many of the ideas that he saw in Saskatchewan. Australia at this point in time is building a new legislative building estimated to cost in the range of $50 million. They would like to incorporate into that building the very latest in television technology, and he felt that he had found just that type of technology here in our province.

The Annual Dinner was hosted on December 7th, 1983, which winds up our year of activity as a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The dinner was attended by approximately 207 people with reports coming from the Members who have attended various functions throughout the year. I'm sure that all of our Members have found 1983 challenging and rewarding, and I look forward to a very worthwhile year in 1984.

Hon. H.J. Swan
President
Saskatchewan Branch

THIRTY-SECOND PARLIAMENTARY

SEMINAR

LONDON, ENGLAND

March 8 - 26, 1983

REPORT BY L.J. MULLER, MLA
SHELLBROOK-TORCH RIVER

We arrived on Tuesday, March 8, 1983. The first experience that we had was to meet with all of the delegates. There were 18 delegates from 15 countries.

The first thing we did was to get our pictures taken for the passes to Westminster. The security there was extremely tight. If you had a pass, you didn't have to go through scanners but, everyone else had to. I won't go through the Seminar day by day because it would take too long; but, I would like to give you an over-all view of our activities.

Every day we had sessions where two MPs came in to give a talk about their roles in government. Each of them would speak to us for about 20 minutes, then the floor was open for questions. The Question Periods were quite lively. In comparison to how other parliaments work, all Members took part. Sometimes it was hard to get all the questions answered in the time allotted but, everything was run by the clock. We were always on time, and that suited me fine. Every day we had lunch at the House of Commons with a group of MPs.

There is quite a difference between their style of government and ours. There was no such thing as a quorum; as long as someone was up speaking. If it came to a vote and there were less than 40 people, they just passed the vote and went on to the next item of business. The voting system is different than ours because there are 635 Members, and there is only room enough in the House for 470 Members. The MPs file through a room past a desk, then vote as they go by. They have a first, second, and third line whip system: on the first line whip, it doesn't really matter whether or not they go to vote; on the second line whip, they should be there, or have a good excuse; and, on the third line whip, they have to be there. All Members leave phone numbers where they can be reached at any time, in case there is an important vote.

One weekend, we were taken out to visit with a local government at Hoasham West Sussex. This Council has 44 Members that deal with local government such as schools, roads, and recreational facilities.

These people received no remuneration, just some travel and expenses. That weekend, we stayed at an old manor house in the country, which was 450 years old. This house was used as a base for Canadian Soldiers during World War II, so I felt a little more at home there.

Back in London, we attended Commonwealth Day with a church service at Westminster Abbey, which the Queen and Prince Philip attended. That evening a reception was held with the Queen and Prince Philip in attendance. Each of us had a chance to meet and speak with the Royal Couple.

The group also spent some time with Speaker Thomas to learn about his role in Parliament. Speaker Thomas has a great sense of humour; which, I guess, all speakers should have. This, I am sure, is acquired by listening to the debate.

We spent some time in Question Period. In Westminster it is a little different. The questions have to be given in writing 48 hours before they are brought to the floor of the House of Commons.

The Minister has all the answers written out for Question Period. Supplementary Questions are taken on the cuff; that way there is some excitement in Question Period.

The press in Westminster is somewhat the same as here. They can depend on the press to report things just the way they happen, as we do!

The role of the second chamber in Westminster is a lot like our Senate except for the appointments, some of them are inherited. They have over 1300 Members in the House of Lords; of course, there isn't seating room for all of them. They only get paid when they attend; and, some Lords have never attended a Session. So, it is at no cost to the House of Lords. There are on-going discussions regarding changing the House of Lords, but things move rather slowly in England.

Parliamentary experience and problems were discussed among the group. There are some differences between our system and the systems of the 15 countries who were represented.

One of the discussions that is under debate in Westminster now is whether to stay in the EEC or not. I found this interesting because they have the same problems with their agricultural products as we do with over-production. There doesn't seem to be a quick or easy solution to this.

The last day that we were there, we had a debate on Parliament and finance, which brought out some interesting points. The whole trip was interesting for me; and, I would recommend to anyone to take this trip, if the opportunity should rise.

The farewell lunch was in the House of Lords Restaurant with a number of Lords. I certainly enjoyed myself, and thank you!

SECOND

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

April 9 - 16, 1983

REPORT BY E.L. BACON, MLA
SASKATOON NUTANA

I am pleased to report to the Committee on the week long conference of the CPA with regard to our Committee meeting which was held April 9-16 inclusive, 1983.

Saskatchewan was represented by the following persons:

John Gerich, MLA, Redberry
Fred Thompson, MLA, Athabasca
Evelyn Bacon, MLA, Saskatoon Nutana
Gwenn Ronyk, Deputy Clerk
Merrilee Charowsky, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk
Tom C. Wakeling, Q.C., Counsel to Committee

I have been awaiting a copy of Hansard in order to detail this report but to date I am not in receipt of said document.

The first day of the conference was in Montreal at the Chateau Champlain. A reception sponsored by the Government of Quebec was held that evening. Sunday we toured Montreal by bus and then drove to Chateau Mirabel for lunch before embarking on our country drive to Ottawa.

Ottawa was the host city of the heart of the conference, accommodating us at the Chateau Laurier. The daily sessions were held in the Chamber of the Senate at the Parliament Buildings. There was a beautiful luncheon every day, Monday to Friday, complete with a bar and table wines, and a lovely banquet every evening, complete with bar and table wines, with the exception of Wednesday.

For Saskatchewan and many others, the highlight was the Tuesday evening banquet at Government House as guests of the Governor General, Ed Schreyer and his wife Lilly. Upon asking a 'Lord' from the United Kingdom a question, he affirmed my guess - that we had just experienced the epitomy of fine cuisine and protocol.

Friday morning we flew to Toronto and were lodged at the Royal York. A tour of the city took up the balance of the day. The Government of Ontario sponsored a 'wind up' banquet that evening.

Saturday was a tour of Niagara Falls and of course a luncheon complete with bar and table wine! It was also a day of departures and the reluctant good-byes to new friends from around the world.

In my opinion, the conference was very academic and philosophical in nature. Saskatchewan has had such a Committee to scrutinize regulations since 1963. So much discussion was not applicable to us, however, there were many new jurisdictions seeking information and opinions.

Political tradition prevailed. Most attended the senate chamber daily and listened, but the real philosophizing and comparing of notes and opinions occurred over dinner or lunch. The underlying concensus that I found from those with whom I spoke was this:

> There is an inherent danger for elected people to allow bureaucrats or "non-elected" officials to draft and enforce regulations. These employees are not answerable to the public and therefore, the duty of the elected person to protect the public is often undermined. Also, regulations drafted and enforced prior to the Committee's scrutiny can cause irrevocable damage to persons prior to the Committee's scrutiny. It was therefore concluded that Committees such as ours should beware of 'falling behind' and meet at least monthly and that such Committees should exercise their powers to Ministers in requesting that said regulations pursuant to parent legislation pass the Committee prior to enforcement.

There was also considerable debate and lecturing about the question of supremacy of Parliament vs Courts. It was my general conclusion that most Commonwealth jurisdictions felt the courts should not have the power to challenge laws; the onus for legislative changes should be the lobbying responsibility of those on whom the regulations and laws are enforced.

In conclusion, I believe that our Committee and those appointed to it have the awesome responsibility of safe-guarding our population from unnecessary hardship and injustices put forth by any administration and the employees thereof; a responsibility encompassing everything from interpretation to a typing error.

REPORT BY F.J. THOMPSON, MLA
ATHABASCA

I had the pleasure of attending the Second Commonwealth Conference on delegated Legislation from April 9th to April 16th, 1983.

We started off in Montreal on April 9th, then went to Ottawa on the 10th - held our meetings there for four days. We then travelled to Toronto for a social gathering put on by the Provincial Government. The final social event was a trip to Niagara Falls on the 16th. However, I passed this trip up and flew back to Regina on the morning of April 16th.

I found the conference very interesting and I feel worthwhile and a real learning experience for myself.

I was also very proud when in the opening remarks, Saskatchewan was singled out as a leader in delegated legislation - having set up the Saskatchewan committee in 1963. The first conference was held in Canberra, Australia in 1980. A request has been received to hold the next conference in India. Of the 26 governments at the conference, many of them presented papers respecting their committees how they worked and also some problems they have had. One example is in the Northwest Territories where they did not have a process for reviewing delegated regulations.

However, in May 1982 the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on legislation amended its terms of reference to include orders and regulations to ensure compliance with the ordinance under which they are issued. "ie" examine all orders and regulations issued by the Commissioner. This was not possible prior to May 1982. Another paper that I found very interesting was presented by Professor Dennis Pearce, Dean Faculty of Law, Australian National University, Canberra. His paper zeroed in on general enabling provisions. Some examples of enabling provisions are: "India...to carry out..." "Zambia: - Carrying into effect..." "Canada: - generally for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act..." Other very important papers were presented by India, Canada and other countries and provinces. India presented a paper on unexpected and unusual use of powers which I found very interesting; examples were when they suddenly increase the fee for a service by 400%; when they caused injustice or hardship to the people; when fixed a low quorum for a meeting.

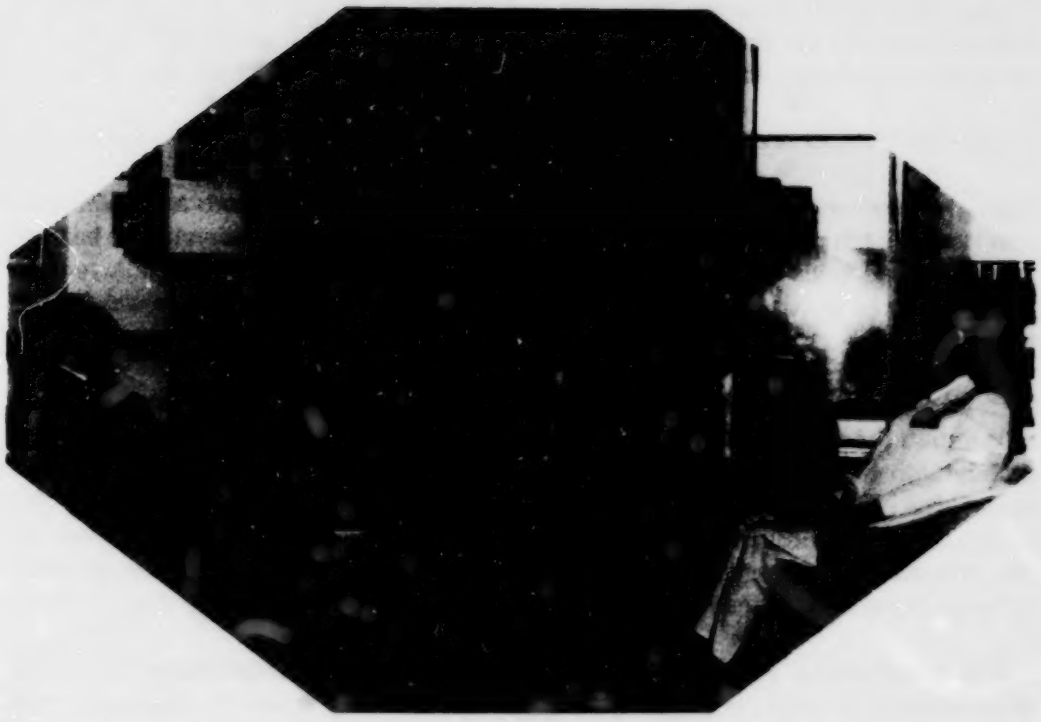
All in all I feel it was a very successful conference. I want to thank all the Canadian organizers as the whole week went very smoothly with much praise coming from all countries.

I also want to thank our Deputy Clerk, Gwenn Ronyk, our Counsel, Tom E. Wakeling, and Merrilee Charowsky, Law Clerk. They all did a commendable job and were all very helpful to the Saskatchewan MLAs.

INTERPROVINCIAL VISIT

ONTARIO

June 19 - 22, 1983



REPORT BY DWAIN LINGENFELTER, MLA
SHAUNAVON

INTRODUCTION

From June 19-22 three Members of the Saskatchewan Legislature and one staff person had the unique opportunity of visiting the Ontario Legislature. Our group consisted of the Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislature, Honourable Herb Swan, MLA; Paul Meagher, MLA; David Mitchell, Assistant Clerk; and myself, Dwain Lingenfelter, MLA.

Our host during our stay was the Speaker of the Ontario Assembly, Honourable John Turner, MPP. It seems to me there is a real advantage in a small group travelling to another Legislature with a very flexible timetable and agenda, as it gives a real opportunity to see and learn about areas that you might have a special interest in.

QUESTION PERIOD AND THE ASSEMBLY

During our visit we had an opportunity to attend two Question Periods and as Opposition House Leader it gave me an opportunity to see how the Opposition House Leaders in the Ontario Legislature handled this important daily procedure in their Assembly. There are three noticeable differences between the question period in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

First, since there are two opposition parties in the Ontario Legislature, the opportunity to question the Government must be shared and questions alternate between the two parties with the amount of time allowed proportional to the representation in the Assembly.

The second major difference is the fact that Question Period is one hour in duration rather than the 30 minutes we are accustom to in Saskatchewan.

The third difference is that Question Period comes after Ministerial Statements rather than before as is the case in Saskatchewan. This difference seems to take away from the urgency of Question Period and this was certainly evident on June 20th when a number of Ministers rose to give ministerial statements. This process took about the first 30 minutes of the session.

TELEVISION IN THE ASSEMBLY

Our Members will be aware that since March 17, 1983 we have had television broadcasting of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. This system of course uses an automatic camera system which records all the action in the Assembly. The uniqueness and quality of the system is well known. The cameras are well placed and almost unnoticeable. The lighting, while increased, is concealed well and there are no glaring T.V. lights. The microphone system is the same system used for Hansard. In short, the Saskatchewan system has not disrupted the atmosphere of the Assembly. The Saskatchewan system stands in contrast to the system used in the Ontario Legislature. In the Ontario Legislature various T.V. stations are allowed to use hand held cameras from the Press Gallery. The problems with the Ontario system are:

1. The opening lighting which is very bright and glaring and on during Question Period, seems to be a problem for Members;

2. Shots taken from the Press Gallery are not direct shots and may be representative of the Member;

3. Movement of the hand held camera distracts from the activity of the Assembly;

4. Only that portion which the camera crew deems worthwhile is recorded and as far as I know there is no cataloging of the recorded parts.

THE LIBRARY

In touring the library we were impressed by the service available to members in the library. Most noticeable was the research capability which is in place for members. If this system were in place in our library it would be possible for a member to go to the library and request a researched paper or speech, lets say on Medicare or any other relevant topic, and in a short time have it available. I feel this system should be adopted by the Saskatchewan Assembly because in this age of information when demand on members are ever increasing, access to and assistance in preparing information on short notice is critical.

ASSISTANTS TO MEMBERS

One other area where Members in the Ontario Legislature appear to have an edge over our Members is staffing and equipment for caucus offices. Each caucus office appeared to have several word processors. It is my opinion that each Member of the Legislative Assembly should have access to a word processor in order to disseminate

quality produced information to his or her constituents. In terms of staff, in addition to a basic caucus staff, each Ontario MPP has one full time staff person in the Legislature, one full time staff person in the Constituency, and a full time office in the Constituency.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion let me say that the visit made to the Ontario Legislature by our group was very worthwhile and I would like to thank the Ontario Legislature for the invitation and our staff on arranging this excellent tour.

TWENTY-THIRD

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

August 7 - 11, 1983

REPORT BY GAY CASWELL, MLA
SASKATOON WESTMOUNT

The CPA Regional Conference held in Winnipeg at the Fort Garry Hotel, was the first such conference I attended. Walter Johnson, Saltcoats MLA, headed the delegation which included his wife Dorothy, Bill Sveinson and family, Keith Parker, Bud Smith, myself and daughter Patsy.

There were representatives from each provincial legislature, the Federal Government, and observers from the U.K., Tonga and Tobago, and the Cayman Islands.

The debates often fell within the issue of government intervention or free enterprise. As one Manitoba MLA said "you can tell the Conservatives and Socialists as soon as they start speaking, and if you can't tell, you know they're Liberal".

Ideology was set aside at the socials which included a trip to Steinbach and a Hutterite Colony, River Boat Cruise, Barbecue at the J. Richardson farm, Folkfest Pavilions, banquet and dance.

The Pawley Government was involved in the longest session in Manitoba history. It taxed their resources to play host to the CPA. However, they did an admirable job. They were helpful in many seemingly small concerns. Patsy and I would like to express our appreciation to our host, Speaker Walding and his wife Valerie, and the Manitoba Government.

REPORT BY WALTER JOHNSON, MLA
SALTCOATS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

6:00 p.m. — Arrived at the Fort Garry Hotel

7:30 p.m. — Cocktail party mixer in the Ballroom hosted by the Hon. D. James Walding and wife. He is the Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

7:00 - 8:30 a.m. — Buffet breakfast in the Ballroom

9:00 a.m. — First Business Session in the Provencher Room. Spouses and children went to the Museum of Man and Nature.
Official opening by the Hon. Pearl McGonigal, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

11:30 a.m. — First Business Session concluded.

12:00 noon — Had a lovely luncheon at Winnipeg Concert Hall hosted by His Worship William Norrie, Mayor of Winnipeg.

2:00 p.m. — We were all bused to the Manitoba Legislative Building where we had group photos, refreshments in Room 200, a tour and an Audio-visual presentation on Friendly Manitoba (11 minutes).

5:00 p.m. — Returned to Hotel by bus

5:45 p.m. — Left to take in Folklorama, our group took in China and the U.S.A.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

7:00 - 8:30 a.m. — Buffet breakfast in the Ballroom

9:00 a.m. — Second Session. Bill Sveinson carried the debate in an excellent manner and I thank him. I was very disappointed in Dwain Lingenfelter for not showing up at all as he was supposed to carry the debate on that topic. But, again, Bill did a commendable job on such very short notice.
Women and children went on a tour of the Osborne Village Shopping Centre.

12:00 noon	All participants left hotel for Mennonite Village Museum at Steinbach. We had a lunch of cheese perogies and sausages at the Livery Restaurant. We also watched them make perogies and then toured the Village Museum.
3:30 p.m.	Left by bus for Suncrest Hutterite Colony near Klufeld. We had a great tour of their chicken and hog operation and how self-contained they are. They gave us orange drink and their favorite dessert — cheese pie, it was very delicious.
5:25 p.m.	Departed by bus for Kelburn Farms for a Barbecue Supper which was most delicious. From the pit we had corn on the cob, buns, pickles, and were entertained by a great band by the name of Ray St. Germain. It was exciting for me because I've known the manager, George De Pape, for quite awhile and if it hadn't been for him and his wife, the evening would have been hilarious because my wife had to do a repair job on my zipper. "I will explain this in private under oath."
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10	
7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Buffet breakfast in the Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	Third Session Children and Spouses went to Assiniboine Park, toured the zoo and the English Flower Garden.
12:00 noon	Lunch on our own After lunch we spent the afternoon at the House for Question Period. I like ours a lot better.
5:45 p.m.	Left by bus and took in three Folklorama which were Scotland, Portugal, Caribbean; all very nice but some of the food was questionable. After the Caribbean, on our way back to the Hotel we got side-swiped by a car. Nobody was hurt and they were in the wrong.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11	
7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Buffet breakfast in the Ballroom
9:00 a.m.	Fourth and final session. Spouses and children went to the Royal Canadian Mint.

11:45 a.m.	Boarded "Paddlewheel Princess" for lower Fort Garry; luncheon on the boat was very delicious and compliments of the Government of Manitoba. This was a beautiful cruise down the river and through the gate.
3:15 p.m.	Departed by bus for the Hotel
5:45 p.m.	All participants went by bus to Government House, reception by the Hon. Pearl McGonigal, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. I had the pleasure of presenting her with a well chosen Saskatchewan book. I report that she was more than pleased and made a big fuss over it.
7:00 p.m.	Back to Hotel to prepare for farewell dinner and dance.
8:00 p.m.	Dinner and dance - Concert Room, Fort Garry Hotel. Music by the Jimmy King Band. Host: Hon. D. James Walding, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12	
	Depart On behalf of Dorathea and myself, I would like to thank CPA for the opportunity to have been your representative at Winnipeg as the lead person from Saskatchewan and we are sure looking forward to October here in Regina. A special thanks to David Mitchell and his wife for all the assistance given to me in Winnipeg. Thanks David.

REPORT BY A.L. (BUD) SMITH, MLA
MOOSE JAW SOUTH

It is my opinion that there was very good discussion and debate on the resolutions put forth at the conference sessions. I am sure everyone who attended would agree we met very interesting and knowledgable delegates and visitors. One might say you can gain a great amount of different views from others regardless of where they are from. I am sure the Province of Manitoba, the city of Winnipeg, and the Legislature certainly were good hosts for the occasion.

The rational of activities which they planned for us while not in conference were excellent, I am sure it created many hours of planning. I would suggest however, one may give some thought as to whether it need to be that many days, for the hours of business time spent. In conversation with many of the other delegates from other parts of Canada to the U.K. they were very pleased and interested in the day to day happenings in Saskatchewan.

Therefore I am convinced we may see more of our friends from other parts of Canada to the U.K. coming to visit the prairies in the future.

In conclusion I feel it was very informative to all who attended and presumably looking forward to the future conferences in the coming years.

NINTH

CANADIAN REGIONAL SEMINAR

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

October 3 - 7, 1983

REPORT BY HON. A.E. BLAKENEY, MLA
REGINA ELPHINSTONE

I will confine my report to commenting on two events, one formal, and one informal.

One highlight of the seminar was the Oxford Union style debate held in the Legislative Chamber on the subject:

> "Be it resolved that the American Congressional System is better suited to meet the needs of a modern democratic society than the British Parliamentary System."

The affirmative was upheld by Mr. Keith Penner, M.P. and Dr. Morris Shumiatcher and the negative being upheld by Mr. Stephen Neary, M.H.A. and Sir Charles Gordon. The debate was joined with eloquence and humour and even with some vocal efforts on the part of Dr. Shumiatcher and Mr. Neary. Dr. Shumiatcher called in aid the words of W.S. Gilbert suggesting that Members of Parliament were not called upon to think for themselves at all. It was particularly distressing to hear the suggestion that this comment applied not only to backbenchers but to Ministers of the Crown. No doubt it was to register a firm rejection of this proposition that the case argued by the affirmative was decisively rejected.

The arguments boiled down to the familiar ones. Under a Congressional system it is undoubtedly true that individual Members have a greater opportunity to shape policy and to be responsive to the particular needs of their constituents. It is equally true that under a Congressional system the individual voter has much less opportunity to vote for or against a particular policy or policy direction and expect that the person elected will be able to implement the policy or follow the policy direction. The Parliamentary system, with the party discipline which is necessary to make it operate, gives the voter a greater opportunity to express his views on the policies which he thinks his government should follow and much less opportunity to select a representative who will represent him as an effective advocate for his particular concerns, as opposed to general policy directions. Each of these general arguments was raised with force and wit and further aspects of the arguments were brought out during the question period which followed.

I thought that this was a useful and entertaining way to refresh our knowledge of the basic principles which underlie our system of government. They are particularly relevant at this time when there is widespread discussion of Senate reform and when much of the discussion centres around an elected Senate where party discipline would be less effective and which would take on some of the attributes of a legislative chamber in a Congressional system.

The other activity which I want to report on briefly is the idea of the informal house parties. I had the opportunity to host such a party and to have guests from Great Britain, Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia, and Mr. Speaker and Mrs. Swan, meet with a number of former Members of our Legislature including Mr. Speaker Dewhurst and Mrs. Dewhurst, Mr. Justice Ken MacLeod and Mrs. MacLeod and several others. We had persons who had been elected under such diverse banners as Social Credit, Progressive Conservative, Liberal, New Democrat and British Labour Party. In these circumstances it's hardly surprising that lively discussion ensued and it would be my judgment that a good time was had by all. The advantage of this type of function is that it gives our guests from outside Saskatchewan an opportunity to meet with people from our province who have similarities of interest but widely different backgrounds. I think the house party idea is an excellent one and one which might be pursued when other groups of Parliamentarians visit our province.

As a general comment I enjoyed the opportunity to meet Parliamentarians from across Canada and from Great Britain and felt, as I have felt in the past, that such exchanges of views are useful for all of us in allowing us to broaden our experience and widen our horizons.

REPORT BY H. MARTENS, MLA
MORSE

The democratic process will probably be recorded in history in many ways, each of which will indicate problems, need for adjustments and changes to suit various peoples life styles.

The many positive benefits that society has gained in having stability, giving the common man the right to seek his own destiny to govern himself selected by his "peers", are strides that have been taken in the long walk of the various democracies in the world history. Some of the variations in the two basic democracies were debated in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in Regina comparing the Congressional system to the Westminster system.

The response to the debate was obviously in favor of the Westminster system. One of the very significant impressions that I had was that in the Westminster system there are many variations in the make-up of the rules that regulate the government of each province and the various Commonwealth countries. I firmly believe that this is one of its greatest strengths. It allows each jurisdiction to develop its own systems and regulations, and these many times will typify the backgrounds, the variety of nationalities, the life style and urban or rural dominance.

The whole week was a learning experience for me, and also a time of reflection on some of the benefits that accrue to me and my family because of the dedication of so many in public life.

I am very certainly looking forward to the time when all of the Commonwealth countries will be here in 1985.

It certainly was a pleasure for us to host all of you who were here for this CPA convention. I hope all of you gained a better understanding of Saskatchewan and the great people we represent. Thank you for coming.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Saskatchewan Branch
of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:

I have examined the statement of receipts and disbursements of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for the year ended December 31, 1983. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, this statement presents fairly the financial position of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association as at December 31, 1983 and the source and application of funds for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Regina, Saskatchewan
February 16, 1984

E.J. Reynolds, C.A.
Auditor

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983

RECEIPTS	
Grant - Province of Saskatchewan	$47,050.00
Membership fees:	
1983 - Regular 63, Associate 24 at $20.00	1,740.00
Association ties sold	12.00
Total Receipts	$48,802.00
DISBURSEMENTS	
Transportation and other allowances to Saskatchewan delegate(s) attending:	
23rd Canadian Regional Conference - Winnipeg, Man.	$ 4,398.89
29th General Conference, Kenya - $3,798.98 less $2,278.00 recovered - net	1,520.98
32nd Seminar on Westminster Parliamentary Practice and Tynwald Ceremony, Isle of Man	2,801.56
Interprovincial Parliamentary visit to Ontario	4,084.50
Regional Council meeting - Ottawa	1,110.00
9th Canadian Regional Seminar, Regina	1,325.16
Hosting:	
Parliamentary delegates from Yukon and Northwest Terr.	3,144.18
Parliamentary delegates from Great Britain	3,276.38
9th Canadian Regional Seminar - Regina	
Dinners, luncheons, refreshments and entertainment	10,794.82
Transportation of delegates	3,009.40
Meeting room accommodation	2,400.00
Printing programs, etc.	2,116.66
Mementoes and photographs	760.46
Sundry Seminar expenses	772.63
31st General Conference in 1985 - preliminary expense	1,661.23
Wheat sheaf lucite displays	1,421.88
Wheat sheaf lapel pins (1,999)	1,679.16
Annual meeting dinner, Saskatchewan Branch	5,112.75
Contribution to Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Assoc.	200.00
Printing Annual Report for 1982	714.37
Telecommunications	541.66
Other	21.51
Total Disbursements	$52,868.18
Excess of disbursements over receipts for year	$ 4,06[illegible]
Add: balance of funds on hand January 1, 1983	4,604.22
Funds on deposit with Page Credit Union Limited as at December 31, 1983 including share deposit of $15.00	$ 538.04